

WHOLE NO. 9280.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Debate in the House on the Finance of the Nation.

Passage of the Treasury Note Bill by a Vote of Ninety-three to Fifty-four.

The Legal Tender Clause Retained.

Debate in the Senate on the Government Expenditures.

Proposed Retrenchment to the Amount of Thirty Millions of Dollars.

Test Vote on the Bill Reducing the Pay of Soldiers, Sailors and Civilians.

The Bill Virtually Passed by the Senate.

Reduction of the Mileage of Congressmen.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK ON THE TAX BILL.

Important Notice to Holders of Government Bonds.

cc., cc., cc.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 1862.

PASSAGE OF THE TREASURY NOTE BILL, WITH THE LEGAL TENDER CLAUSE, BY THE HOUSE.

At last Congress has acted, and the legal tender Treasury Note bill has passed. The opponents of the bill undertook to carry out the supporters of it by amendments and a long session, but the friends of the measure had notice of the fact that the Treasury was empty and must be replenished immediately, and therefore insisted that the bill should be passed in order to restore public confidence. A test vote, at about four o'clock, was decisive in favor of the legal tender. A motion to strike out the legal tender clause obtained only fifty-four votes in favor and ninety-three against it. After a severe struggle the House, at about half past five o'clock, reached a vote on the main question, and the bill passed by ninety-three yeas to fifty-four nays.

There is great rejoicing in the city to-night among the bankers and merchants from the principal cities of the Union now here.

PREPARATION OF THE TAX BILL.

The statement sent to the country yesterday that the Sub-Committee of Ways and Means have prepared a rough draft of the new Tax Bill, for the private use of the committee, is not true. The additional statement in the same paragraph that a few days only will elapse before the bill will be matured, is another mistake, as I am authorized to say that it will probably be ten or twelve days before the bill will be ready. The Sub-Committee are working with great energy.

PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT BONDS.

The order of Secretary Chase directing the payment of the coupons of the 15th of August, 7-30-100 bonds in New York, will be so far modified as to make them payable also by the Treasurer of the United States at Washington, and by the Assistant Treasurers at Boston and Philadelphia. The Secretary desires to afford every facility to the holders of the bonds compatible with the full security against fraud and counterfeiting. This security is thought to be as important to the holders as to the government.

SCARCITY OF SMALL COIN AT WASHINGTON.

Small coin continues scarce for business transactions. In order to preclude the flood of small notes from a disage, many of which are counterfeited, a bill was introduced in the Senate to-day, authorizing the Corporation of Washington to issue notes of less denomination than five dollars, to an amount not exceeding \$100,000, redeemable in current bank notes at par in Washington, or in United States Treasury notes.

APPROVAL OF THE BILL STRIKING KERELS FROM THE PENSION ROLLS.

The President has approved the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension rolls the names of all such persons as have or may hereafter take up arms against the government of the United States, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels or manifested a sympathy with their cause. It is known that some persons in the West, after drawing their pensions, have openly joined the enemy, while others who have not taken this extreme step have openly sympathized with the rebels and drawn their pensions. The law just passed affords a partial remedy against disloyal pensioners receiving money from the government.

THE STATUS OF THE HOME GUARDS IN THE BORDER STATES.

Some difference of opinion has arisen in Congress upon the question of the status of troops raised in some of the border States for the defence of the Union. The question has been settled in regard to Kentucky by a provision in the bill for the defence of Washington and other purposes. The question of the troops of Missouri and Maryland has been made the subject of a committee of conference. The committee this morning agreed upon an amendment, providing that troops shall not be raised in those States for service limited to the States, excepting ten thousand in Missouri and forty-five hundred in Maryland. The committee consisted of Messrs. Wilson, Henderson and Grimes, of the Senate, and F. P. Blair, Frank Thomas and John Hickman, of the House.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

The following confirmations were made by the Senate to-day:—Arch. McIntyre, Treasurer of Mint at Philadelphia; Isaac O. Hunt and John S. Hogeboom, Appraisers, New York; Charles H. Eldridge, Geo. E. Thornton, Geo. Plunkett, Edward Foster and Geo. Lawrence, Paymasters of Navy; James May, Thomas C. Martin, L. C. Merrill, F. C. Cooley, A. J. Clark, George Cochran, Thomas T. Caswell, Benjamin F. Camp, H. M. Dennison, H. H. Douglas, Clark Hellen, Charles Hoy, Rufus Park, J. S. Post, A. J. Fritchard, R. J. Richardson, J. A. Smith, J. S. Stockwell, George A. Sawyer, W. H. Thompson, Richard Washington and William H. Webber, Assistant Paymasters of Navy.

NO KENNY MEAN GENERAL M'CALL'S LINES.

General McCall denies the statement, published in a Philadelphia paper, that there is a large body of the army encamped upon his picket lines. A troop of scouting cavalry returned this morning from a thorough reconnaissance of the whole length of the picket lines, and gave this as the result of the reconnaissance.

OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs are busy, as usual upon Mexican matters. A special meeting of the committee will be held on the subject to-morrow.

THE ARMY.

General Fitzhugh Porter, having been summoned on important business to New York, his division is at present in command of General Morell, of the Second brigade, one of the ablest Brigadier Generals in the Army of the Potomac.

It is stated that Major Quincy, of the Ninth Massachusetts regiment, will be appointed Lieutenant Colonel, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Lieutenant Colonel Peard. Major Quincy came out as Captain in the Ninth.

Captain Holt, whose illness and temporary withdrawal from his battery I mentioned a few days since, returned to-day, restored in health.

THE CAVALRY SERVICE.

General Cooke is working hard to make the cavalry under his command efficient in every respect. Twice a week the cavalry here are required to drill in squadron, regiment and brigade drills.

Lieutenant Benjamin T. Hutchins, by the promotion of David M. Gregg, becomes commander of Company C of the Sixth United States Cavalry.

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Private William A. Stalker, of Company A, Nineteenth New York Volunteers, was convicted on a charge of desertion by a Court Martial, January 15, and his sentence has just been promulgated. He is to be dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States, and then committed to the United States penitentiary in the District of Columbia, at hard labor, for the term of two years and six months. An impression existed in the minds of some that this regiment was held only for three months' service, and the prisoner, with others, governed himself accordingly and deserted the service. The order in this case shows that the Nineteenth New York regiment is about to serve until April, 1863, and concludes in the following words:—

Stalker could be more calculated to demoralize a military body than such conduct as the accused stands convicted of. When a soldier wishes to lay before the Major General commanding any grievance under which he may be laboring, he should do so through the proper channels, make known his complaint. To all well founded complaints an attentive ear will be given, and the same consideration will be allowed to remain undisturbed. The same considerations which make the Major General commanding anxious to aid any subordinate, who, in a proper manner, seeks redress of wrongs, render him determined to vindicate all due means the sacredness of military discipline. In both cases he aims at promoting the good of the service. He has gone at length into the explanation of this case, because it was necessary to correct misapprehensions widely spread and likely to do great mischief. No man in a similar position, after the publication of this order, should be able to plead ignorance to excuse his insubordination. The proceedings of the Court Martial in the case of private William A. Stalker are confirmed. The prisoner will be dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States, will be conducted to Washington City, under guard, and there he will be delivered, with a copy of this order, to the Warden of the penitentiary of the District of Columbia.

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Joseph B. Stewart, substitute trustee, announces that he will sell at public auction, in Alexandria, the franchise and property of the Alexandria Railroad Company on the 10th day of April next, in default of the payment of interest on the company's bonds.

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The bill to defend the pay and emoluments of officers of the army was taken up. It is as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That whenever an officer of the army shall be removed from office, or shall be discharged from service, or shall be retired, or shall be otherwise separated from the service, he shall be entitled to receive, in full, the pay and emoluments to which he is entitled by law, and to the same extent as if he were still in the service.

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